

Capsule Summary  
SM-599  
Barn at Part of Cross Manor  
Beachville vicinity  
Private

c. 1860-1870

Situated on an agricultural tract that was once part of "Cross Manor," this modest, axial plan tobacco barn features many details that are typical for the building type and period. The framing is mortise-and-tenoned, the members are hewn and circular sawn, and cut nails were used for fasteners. The oral tradition surrounding the barn, however, is anything but typical. According the current owner Phillip Meagher, the barn was used by local African-American residents of Beachville as a meeting place and dance hall in the late-nineteenth century. Curiously, architectural evidence supports this local tradition. The shed side walls of the barn, for instance, are sheathed with vertical, circular sawn boards that have been whitewashed. Normally exhibiting a dirt floor, the barn utilizes plank floors. Further research is needed to ascertain the full significance of this otherwise conventional looking building.

SM-599, Barn at Part of Cross Manor  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture Agriculture Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Tobacco Barn
Known Design Source:	None

# MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Barn at Part of Cross Manor (pref.)

and/or common Meagher Barn

### 2. Location

street &amp; number N side of Beachville Rd, approx 1 mile W of intersection of Beachville &amp; Route 5 not for publication

city, town Beachville ☒ vicinity of congressional district 1

state Maryland county St. Mary's County TM-67, B-9, P-77

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Phillip E. Meagher, Jr.

street &amp; number PO Box 186 telephone no.:

city, town St. Inigoes state and zip code Md 20684-0186

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 409

street &amp; number folio 333

city, town Leonardtown state Md

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-599

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Barn at Part of Cross Manor lies on the north side of Beachville Road approximately 0.4 of a mile west of the intersection of Beachville Road and Maryland Route 5, near St. Inigoes, Maryland. Situated in the midst of a soybean field well off the road, this agricultural building is oriented on a north/south axis. A non-contributing one story, ranch-style dwelling is located to the west of the barn and lies perpendicular to a dirt drive that extends from the road. The barn, house, and field are part of a 31.77 acre parcel that is ringed by a series of wooded tracts.

The Barn at Part of Cross Manor, constructed c. 1860-1870 is a frame, tripartite tobacco barn composed of an axial plan center block with sheds descending off of its east and west sides. The barn's braced frame rests on a brick pier foundation. The exterior walls are sheathed with vertical boards fastened to the frame with mature cut and wire nails. The cornice is open and the roof is covered with corrugated metal. Judging from architectural evidence, it appears the west shed was constructed subsequent to the main block and east shed.

The south elevation consists of the barn's gable end. A centrally located door hung on modern hinges provides access in the main block. Part of the original door lies just above this entry and remains attached to a strap hinge. A door, now removed, once provided entry into the west shed. The asymmetrical roofline observed on the elevation represents the first hint that the sheds were constructed at different times. Architectural evidence, namely the circular sawn framing members and the use of wire nails, provide an early twentieth century date for the west shed while the east shed dates to the barn's initial construction. The east elevation consists of the largely open east shed that is only partially sheathed with vertical boards. The north elevation contains only a single doorway into the main block. Like the east elevation, the west elevation is only partially sheathed with vertical boards as it features an unbarred opening.

The barn's interior deviates from typical tobacco barn construction practices. The most significant difference is its plank floor. The floor is suspended by a series of large transverse joists that are hewn. The joists lie on sills that in turn are supported by the brick piers. Other than the floor, the framing of the barn follows period conventions. It consists of hewn, circular sawn, and pit-sawn members that are mortise and tenoned together. The framing lies irrespective of the seven five-foot rooms created by the horizontal tobacco poles. Three tiers of poles, a tier of common ties, and two tiers consisting common rafter collars were all used to hang tobacco. In order to bridge the width of the main block, "swinging tiers" suspended from the hewn common ties were utilized. The common ties also support the circular sawn false plate. This thin plate supports the feet of the common rafters. Each rafter pair is joined by two common rafter ties and again at the peak with a half-lap joint.

A second interesting feature is seen on the east side of the main block where a series of vertical, circular sawn planks have been fastened to nailers and then whitewashed. Nailing patterns seen on the outside face of the main block's west side indicate that boards also existed on this side until they were removed. Oral tradition has suggested that these vertical boards and aforementioned floor are evidence that local African-American residents of Beachville may have used the barn as a meeting and dance hall.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-599

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Situated on an agricultural tract that was once part of "Cross Manor," this modest, axial plan tobacco barn features many details that are typical for the building type and period. The framing is mortise-and-tenoned, the members are hewn and circular sawn, and cut nails were used for fasteners. The oral tradition surrounding the barn, however, is anything but typical. According the current owner Phillip Meagher, the barn was used by local African-American residents of Beachville as a meeting place and dance hall in the late-nineteenth century. Curiously, architectural evidence supports this local tradition. The shed side walls of the barn, for instance, are sheathed with vertical, circular sawn boards that have been whitewashed. Normally exhibiting a dirt floor, the barn utilizes plank floors. Further research is needed to ascertain the full significance of this otherwise conventional looking building.

Survey No. SM-599

## 10. Geographical Data

**Quadrangle scale** 1:24 000

H | | | | |

**11. Form Prepared By**

**state** Maryland

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2022  
514-7730

SM-599, Barn at Part Cross Manor  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 409, Folio 333  
Grantee: Philip E. Meagher, Jr. and Teresa L. Meagher  
Grantor: James and Mable N. Parrott  
Date: May 2, 1988  
Notes: The property is listed as containing 31.77 acres.

Reference: Liber MRB 46, Folio 39  
Grantee: James and Mable N. Parrott  
Grantor: James and Mable N. Parrott and Walter L. Cummings and Charles T. Ford  
Date: June 21, 1979

Reference: Liber CBG 169, Folio 499  
Grantee: James Parrott, Walter L. Cummings, Charles T. Ford  
Grantor: Stanley and Ella M. Chemachi  
Date: July 14, 1971

Reference: Liber CBG 108, Folio 280  
Grantee: Stanley and Elsa M. Chemachi  
Grantor: Thomas W. and Mary Rita Owens  
Date: July 17, 1963  
Notes: Here the property is listed as containing 41.424 acres.

Reference: Liber CBG 80, Folio 480  
Grantee: Thomas W. and Mary Rita Owens  
Grantor: Emerson R. and Grace E. Taylor  
Date: April 24, 1959  
Notes: The deed notes a plat by McCrone, Inc. dated July 1963.

Reference: Liber CBG 13, Folio 507  
Grantee: Emerson and Grace E. Taylor  
Grantor: Stephen H. Bean  
Date: September 9, 1942  
Notes: The property is listed as containing 44 acres and is called "Part Cross Manor."

Reference: Liber EBA 10, Folio 85  
Grantee: Stephen H. Bean  
Grantor: Joseph H. Ching  
Date: February 21, 1912  
Notes: As a result of a decree by the circuit court dated December 27, 1911, the property is sold at auction for \$1125. The case was between Joseph H. Ching and Sarah E. Smallwood, James Smallwood, and Bernard Smallwood and is located in Decree Record EBA 5, Folio 1. According to the court documents, John R. Smallwood was to pay \$850 to Allen C. Tyler for the property.

SM-599, Barn at Part Cross Manor  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

(cont.)

Tyler died, however, before Smallwood could fully repay Tyler and so a deed was never executed. In 1902, a deed was executed between Smallwood and Daniel C. Hammett, the executor for Allen C. Tyler. Smallwood, however, died before he could make full payment on the property, so his heirs were forced to sell the property.

Reference: Liber EBA 2, Folio 438

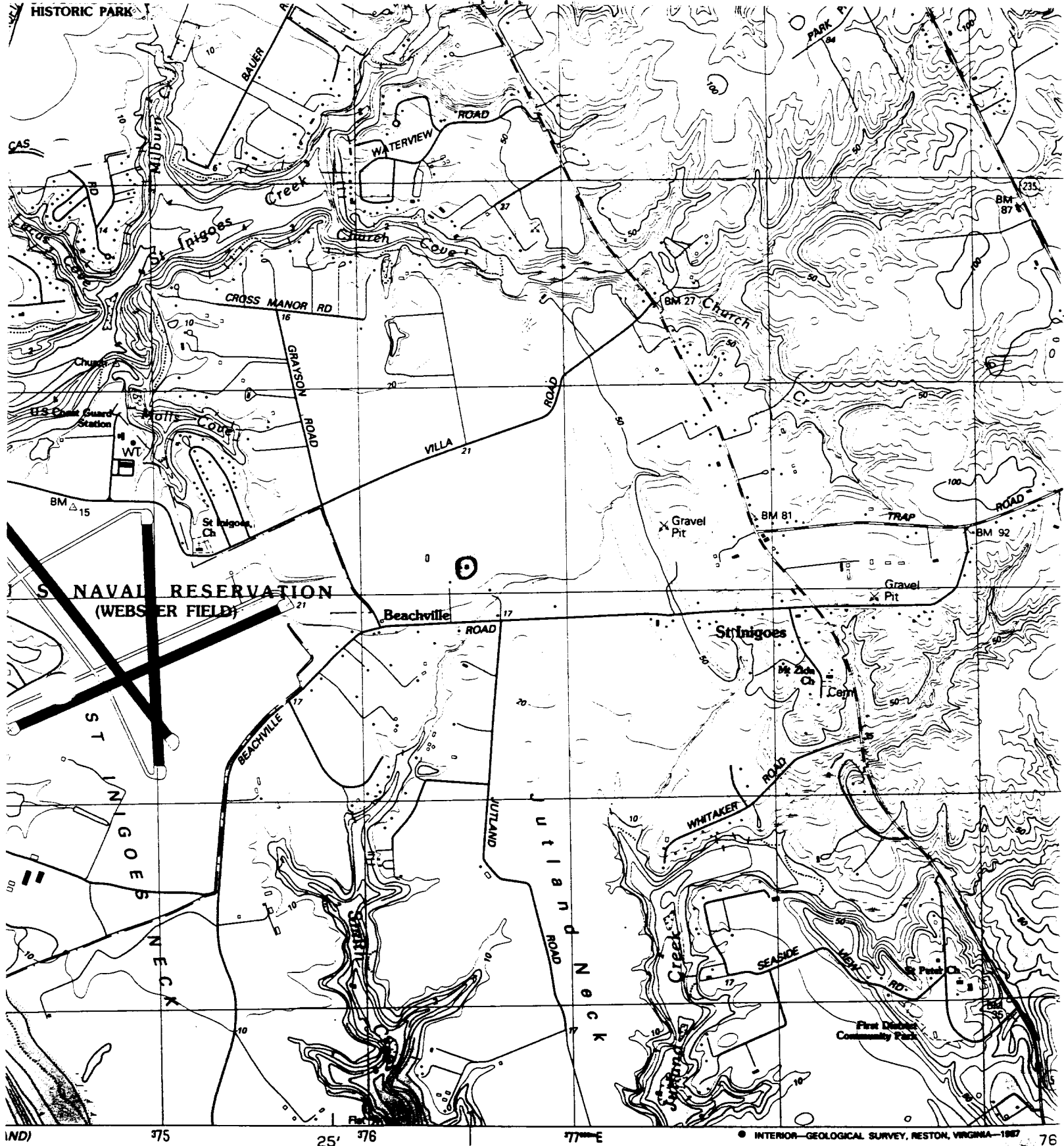
Grantee: John R. Smallwood

Grantor: Daniel C. Hammett, Administrator of Allen C. Tyler's estate

Date: July 22, 1902

Notes: The absence of a bean clause does not permit a more in-depth look at the past property owners. Research on the surrounding properties, however, suggest that Tyler's tract was once part of the larger Cross Manor. It is unclear when it was subdivided. Judging from the evidence of the existing barn and descriptions of the house that was demolished, it may have been between 1840-1860.





NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX

H-7084

SM-599

Barn at Part of Cross Manor  
Beachville Vic.  
St. Mary's County  
St. Mary's City Quad

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1987

76



SM-599

Born at Port of Jones River

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Nov. 1999

Ad. S&PO

Elevation

1 of 2



SM-599

Barn at Part of Cross Mason

St Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Nov, 1997

MD SHPO

Interior - looking N

2 of 2